



The recruitment of poll workers is consistently mentioned as a priority concern with local election officials across Kansas. In a new endeavor, the Secretary of State's Office has partnered with the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB), the Kansas National Education Association (KNEA) and the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) on a renewed effort to encourage high school students to volunteer as poll workers. Rather than placing another mandate on educators, we will work with them to provide students with additional volunteer opportunities while also providing local election officials with the help they need.

All high school students in Kansas are required to take at least three credits of history and government in order to graduate. A good GPA and satisfactory ACT or SAT scores are no longer enough for students seeking entrance to post-secondary education institutions. Increased priority is also being placed on well-rounded students who are civically engaged.

There are numerous opportunities to inspire and incentivize high school students to volunteer. Many are even being used by employers to encourage civic engagement among its workforce. There are ample opportunities and we encourage administrators and educators to work together to identify solutions that work for their respective school districts. Some ideas include:

- Allowing excused absences for students who volunteer as poll workers;
- Providing class credit or extra credit for students who volunteer as poll workers;
- Inviting local election officials to speak to the class about the importance of poll workers;
- Set-up a lunch and learn that allows local election officials to train student volunteers over the lunch hour; and
- Offer additional incentives for students who volunteer as poll workers

Becoming a poll worker is easy. Individuals can get started by contacting the Secretary of State's office at 1.800.262.8683 or by emailing election@ks.gov. Volunteers must complete training, be registered to vote (if of voting age), an American citizen, at least 16 years old and willing to take an oath of office. In addition, volunteers get compensation for their time. Election hours for full-time positions are approximately 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or for part-time workers approximately 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If volunteers are unable to work an entire day, they are encouraged to take a part-time shift or split the day with a friend, family member or colleague.



STUDENT POLL WORKER APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please read the statement below in its entirety and sign. This is a requirement of becoming a student poll worker:

"I will handle my responsibilities as a poll worker with full honesty and integrity. I will report to my assigned polling location in a timely manner. I understand that any and all questions or concerns must be immediately reported to the Supervising Judge at my polling location and I will not leave until released by the Supervising Judge from my duties. I confirm that I am at least 16 years of age and will complete the mandatory training to serve as a poll worker prior to serving. I understand voting is a fundamental right of all Americans and I vow to treat all persons with respect and professionalism."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Relationship to student: Father Mother Guardian Other: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Please read the statement below in its entirety and sign. This is a requirement of becoming a student poll worker:

"I consent to allowing my son/daughter/guardian to be a student poll worker. I understand serving as a student poll worker may result in a partial or full-day absence from school."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SCHOOL CONSENT

if student will miss all or part of a school day to serve as a student poll worker

School Name: _____ Phone: _____

Administrator Signature: _____